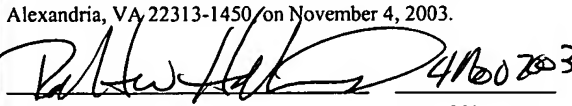


REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 4, 9 – 13, 16 – 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,011,579 issued to Newlin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,415,020 issued to Pinard. Claims 5 – 8, 15, 15 and 20 have been objected to as dependent upon rejected claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections, however, in order to bring the application to issuance, Applicants have canceled Claims 5, 14, and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer and have amended Claims 1, 6 – 8, 13, 15 and 19 to recite subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of pending Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19 and 21.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 4, 2003.	
	4160703
Attorney for Applicant(s)	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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